GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:72
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
DISSEMINATION OF INDIAN ART AND CULTURE ABROAD
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Governement propose to effect dissemiantion of Indian art and Culture in several countries

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether N.R.I.s are proposed to be involved in this venture;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether teams from India are being sent abroad to spread Indian art and culture; and

(f) if so, the details of teams sent abroad during the last three years and the amount spent?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) : The Ministry of Culture has been pursuing an active policy of bilateral cultural cooperation with other countries with the objective of renewing and strengthening cultural links and with a view to project India`s Cultural image abroad. However, one of the objectives of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under Ministry of External Affairss to promote greater awareness of India`s cultural heritage abroad. Towards this end, the Council has set up and maintains 14 cultural centres which are functioning under the overall policy guidelines of the Indian Missions in the respective countries.

(c) & (d): The Government of India have set up a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. L.M. Singhvi, M.P. to look into the various issues concerning NRIs and PIOs.The term of the Committee has been extended upto first week of December, 2001. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations undertakes cultural activities round the world to fulfil its mandate of strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Non-Resident Indians also benefit from such cultural interactions.Many persons of Indian origin have been provided scholarships under the various scholarships schemes of the Council to study Indian arts and culture in Indian Universities/Institutions.

(e) & (f): 108, 72 and 62 performing arts troupes presenting music (vocal/Instrumental), dance (classical/folk) and other art forms (theatre/puppet) were sent abroad by the Council during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. A sum of Rs. -199.89, 246.29 and 317.94 lakhs had been spent on this activity during these three years respectively.